

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION **PREPARATION PROVIDER MONTHLY EMAIL**

Dear Believe and Prepare community,

Below are important updates and events for the month of August. We wish you all the best as many of you return to school this month. As always, please reach out with any question you may have.

Sincerely,
Nicole Bono

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 13 & 14: [Mentor and Resident data collection process webinar](#)

August 26: [Monthly preparation provider webinar](#)

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

August 31: Submit residency certificate applications to ensure issuance by October 1

November 6: [ETS Title II Data Collection](#) will open August 31 and close November 6

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

MENTOR CERTIFICATION WAIVER

Today, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) granted a waiver of policy contained in Bulletin 746, *Louisiana Standards for State Certification of School Personnel*, and Bulletin 996, *Standards for Approval of Teacher and/or Educational Leader Preparation Programs*, regarding the requirement that all undergraduate residents and post-baccalaureate candidates be placed with mentor teachers holding the ancillary mentor teacher certificate, the ancillary provisional mentor teacher certificate, or the Supervisor of Student Teaching certificate, for the 2020-2021 school year.

The LDE will develop an application process for the aforementioned mentor teacher waiver. The LDE will review applications and issue waivers, on a case-by-case basis, to educators who have earned a 'Highly Effective' rating over the two most recent years in the Compass Teacher Evaluation system, or who have been highly recommended to serve as a mentor teacher by the school principal.

This application will be available by no later than **Friday, August 21**. There will be no fees for applicants, school systems, or teacher preparation providers in applying for the mentor teacher waiver.

For more information, please contact Believeandprepare@la.gov

PREPARATION PROVIDER MONTHLY WEBINAR

The Department will continue holding monthly webinars for teacher preparation providers to provide updates and information. The next webinar will be on **August 26 at 10:00 a.m.** All preparation provider leaders and faculty members are welcome to join.

Webinar Details:

- Webinar Date and Time: Wednesday, August 26 from 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/440246097>
- Webinar Phone Number: 646-876-9923
- Meeting ID#: 440 246 097

Please contact nicole.bono@la.gov with questions.

VIRTUAL OBSERVATIONS OF CANDIDATES

[This document](#) provides guidance to preparation programs relative to how virtual observations may be conducted while adhering to Louisiana's data privacy laws.

ELEMENTARY MENTOR ASSESSMENTS

In June BESE adopted a policy change that scales down (from six to four individual assessments) the Elementary assessment series. The LDE convened a work group to make recommendations concerning the elementary assessments. The recommendations from this work group include:

- The LDE will create a clear, concise one-pager that communicates to teachers which Mentor training pathway is most appropriate for them
- Elementary teachers currently enrolled in the Mentor teacher training program should be grandfathered into the policy change adopted by BESE in June.
- Elementary teachers who enrolled in the Mentor training prior to the 2020-2021 academic year should be certified based upon passing the two coaching assessments and any two content assessments of their choosing
- Mentor teachers should attend training and take the assessments that are most appropriate for them

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions.

MENTOR AND RESIDENT DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

In the 2020-2021 school year Mentors of yearlong undergraduate residents will continue to receive a stipend for their work. Their employing school system will receive \$1,000 for the mentor of these residents. Funding for residents completing a yearlong undergraduate residency will continue to be provided through MFP funds. The data collection process for this funding will kick off in August. Two webinars detailing the data collection process will be held.

Webinar Date and Time: Thursday, August 13; 1:30-2:30 p.m. & Friday, August 14th; 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Webinar Link: <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/7328306617>

Webinar Phone Number: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID#: 732 830 6617

LOUISIANA LEADERSHIP ASSESSMENT SERIES AVAILABLE

In December 2019, the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved the Louisiana Leadership Assessment Series (LLAS) as an alternative to the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) for those seeking the Educational Leadership Certificate (EDL1). This exam is now available on the Bloomboard Platform and access to more information can be found at this link on Louisiana Believes.

Educators wishing to become assistant principals or principals choose between the SLLA Praxis and the LLAS to fulfill the exam component of all leadership pathways leading to the EDL1 Certificate.

The assessments for the LLAS are portfolio-based and are aligned to the competencies the state requires through Bulletin 125 for the role of a building level leader. For more information, please go to <https://bloomboard.com/llas> or contact jennie.moctezuma@la.gov.

DARING LEADERSHIP: LESSONS LEARNED FROM TRANSFORMING FOUR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION

Over the past year, inaugural US PREP coalition leaders have come together to speak about, write, and now share with the nation what they've learned about leading change in their teacher preparation programs.

[Daring Leadership: Lessons Learned From Transforming Four Colleges of Education](#) provides a real, raw, and behind-the-scenes look at how leaders from Southeastern Louisiana University, University of Houston, Jackson State University, and Texas Tech University were able to lead their institutions through the change process. The leaders, including Dean Paula Calderon of Southeastern Louisiana University, identified 5 common problems of practice in their change efforts: building capacity, building support, building productive partnerships with PK-12 school districts, changing university policies, and leveraging internal and external forces. Each problem of practice is accompanied by personal stories, experiences, and lessons learned. These leaders provide valuable insights into how they have led change and have institutionalized the changes, even amidst the varied challenges, constraints, and risks one faces with large-scale transformation efforts.

PRAXIS TESTS FROM HOME: UPDATE

ETS continues to offer a Praxis at Home testing solution. By September 1, 80 percent of ETS' tests will be available via the Praxis at Home solution. Please visit the [ETS website](#) for more information.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION

When submitting applications, please use most current [application packets](#) from TeachLA Live site. Ensure **all** parts of application are complete, especially dates (program admission dates, etc.).

When scheduling [office hours](#), please be sure to include as much case/topic information as possible in the invite--case number, certificate number, full name.

TEACHER PREPARATION QUALITY RATING SYSTEM

PERFORMANCE PROFILE WEBSITE LAUNCH

Thank you to all providers for engaging in the website validation process. Updates that were submitted during the process will be applied to the website and sent to providers for final approval. To ensure all programs are able to validate their pages, the website will launch in late August.

The website launch will contain informational data only including:

- An overview of each program, including certification areas offered and images
- Program completers numbers and demographics
- A map of residency placement sites
- Retention at the school-, school system- and state-level

Please contact erich.schultz@la.gov with any questions.

TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL

REQUESTS TO OFFER NEW PROGRAMS: OCTOBER MEETING

Preparation providers seeking approval to offer new programs that result in initial certification must follow the process outlined below. Preparation providers must first submit a [Notice of Intent](#) (NOI), and once that is received, the Department will send a link to the application.

Current and new providers may access resources available on the [Department's website](#) via the [Preparation Library](#).

Milestone	Fall 2020
Application submission deadline	7/31/20
Evaluation period	7/31/20 - 9/11/20
Notification of evaluation results	9/11/20
BESE Considers if recommended for approval	10/13/20